

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DAN WEINBERG**, on March 17, 2005 at
5:15 P.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Dan Weinberg, Chairman (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Eve Franklin (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Kathleen Ely, Committee Secretary
Susan Fox, Legislative Branch

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion
are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: None.
Executive Action: None.

Paul Meyer, Director, Western Regional Mental Health Center, outlined the many difficulties providing services across such a broad area with varied needs for mental health clients.

EXHIBIT(jms59a01)

Chuck Hunter, Refinancing Unit Director, Department of Public Health and Human Services, explained the funding mechanisms through state government for mental health services. He stressed the need for greater funding in this area in order to adequately provide services.

Pete Surdock, Childrens Mental Health Bureau, Division of Health Resources, Department of Public Health and Human Services, pointed out the needs of children in mental health services. Many funding sources have been cut in this area.

Jacob Wagner, Central Service Authority, Federal Service Authority Board, offered explanations of how federal funding was coming to Montana for mental health services.

EXHIBIT(jms59a02)

REP. FRANKLIN arrived.

Anita Rossman explained the role of lay groups and the need for more funding since the role of these groups was so important when mental health services were limited.

EXHIBIT(jms59a03)

Kathy McGowan, Mental Health Association, spoke for a number of mental health groups, advocating for more options and greater funding.

EXHIBIT(jms59a04)

EXHIBIT(jms59a05)

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 7:00 P.M.

SEN. DAN WEINBERG, Chairman

KATHLEEN ELY, Secretary

DW/ke

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([jms59aad0.PDF](#))